

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 02564 142042Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 2564

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJECT: FREJULI WINS IN MISIONES

REF: BA 2527

1. SUMMARY. AS EXPECTED, THE ORTHODOX PERONISTS WON THE ELECTIONS FOR GOVERNOR/VICE GOVERNOR IN THE APRIL 13 ELECTIONS IN MISIONES PROVINCE. THE PERONIST ELECTORAL COALITION (FREJULI) FELL JUST SHORT OF A MAJORITY IN THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE. THE RADICAL PARTY (UCR) FINISHED A STRONG SECOND IN BOTH RACES AND THE DISSIDENT PERONISTS (PARTIDO AUTENTICO/TERCERA POSICION) FINISHED A DISTANT AND DISAPPOINTED THIRD. THE OTHER MINOR PARTIES FINISHED FAR BEHIND WITH NONE OF THEM GETTING MORE THAN ONE PERCENT OF THE VOTE. WHILE THE PERONISTS WON, THEIR VICTORY CAN BEST BE DESCRIBED AS UNDERWHELMING. ALSO FIGURING PROMINENTLY AMONG THE DISAPPOINTED ARE THOSE WHO HOPED TO DERIVE A CLEAR INDICATION AS TO THE POPULARITY OF MRS. PERON'S GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. THE FINAL (BUT AS YET UNOFFICIAL) RESULTS IN THE GOVERNOR/VICE GOVERNOR'S RACE IN THE APRIL 13 MISIONES ELECTIONS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

PARTY	VOTES	PERCENT
FREJULI	74,326	45.9

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BUENOS 02564 142042Z

UCR	62,767	38.7
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PARTIDO AUTENTICO	9,008	#
TERCERA POSICION	6,236	#
OTHERS	9,755	

JOINT TICKET TOGETHER RECEIVED 9.4 PERCENT

NONE OF THE OTHER CANDIDATES GOT MORE THAN ONE PERCENT OF THE VOTES CAST.

3. IN THE RACE FOR LEGISLATURE, THE FREJULI ENDED UP WITH 16 DEPUTY SEATS (12 PERONISTS AND 4 FOR MID), 13 WENT TO THE UCR, 2 TO THE PARTIDO AUTENTICO AND 1 TO TERCERA POSICION. FREJULI IS THUS ONE SHORT OF A MAJORITY OF THE 32 SEATS.

4. THE CAMPAIGN THROUGHOUT WAS OPEN AND ORDERLY. NO QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN RAISED REGARDING THE HONESTY OF THE ELECTIONS, WHICH WERE ADMINISTERED BY THE ARMY AND OTHER SECURITY FORCES. THE ONLY COMPLAINT REGARDING THE CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS IS THE MILLIONS OF PESOS HANDED OUT BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE MINISTRY AS "SUBSIDIES".

5. ANALYSIS. THE FREJULI VICTORY WAS NEITHER OVERWHELMING NOR EMBARRASSINGLY CLOSE; IT WAS SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN. ROCAMORA, AS CHIEF ARCHITECT OF THE POLICY OF ALLOWING THE ELECTIONS TO BE HELD, MUST FEEL VIDICATED AND WILL PROBABLY MOVE AHEAD WITH ELECTION PLANS FOR THE MORE TRANQUIL OF THE OTHER INTERVENED PROVINCES. HE STATED IN AN INTERVIEW THAT HE HOPED THIS WOULD BE ONE OF THE LAST ELECTIONS WHERE THE SYSTEM OF PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION IS USED TO SELECT THE LEGISLATURE.

6. WHILE MANY EXPECTED THE VOTERS OF MISIONES TO INDICATE THEIR DISENCHANTMENT WITH THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT (READ LOPEZ REGA) THIS DID NOT HAPPEN IN ANY CLEAR-CUT FASHION. SOME WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CLAIM THE ELECTION WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH CLOSER WITHOUT THE MASSIVE VOTE BUYING EFFORT. EVEN MANY PERONISTS WANTED TO SEE LOPEZ REGA TAKEN DOWN A NOTCH AND WOULD HAVE AGREED WITH THE UNDERSECRETARY WHO SAID TO AN EMBOFF "I HOPE WE WIN BUT NOT BY MUCH". THE MILITARY

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BUENOS 02564 142042Z

AND LABOR, WHO WERE BOTH ALERT FOR ANYTHING THAT LOOKED LIKE A REPUDIATION OF LOPEZ REGA, CANNOT DERIVE ANY CLEAR INDICATION OF THIS FROM THE VOTE TOTALS. BOTH OF THESE SECTORS ARE NO DOUBT AWARE OF THE "SUBSIDIES" AND HAVE NOT CHANGED ANY OF THEIR PREVIOUS OPINIONS REGARDING THE GOVERNMENT'S LEADING FIGURES.

7. THE UCR DID WELL IN THE ELECTIONS, DESPITE THE FREJULI

VICTORY, AND THEIR ROLE AS THE MAIN POLITICAL OPPOSITION MUST BE ENHANCED. THE TWO FRONT RUNNERS WERE THE ONLY ONES TO IMPROVE THEIR STANDING OVER THE 1973 ELECTIONS IN THE PROVINCE. THE OTHER NINE MINOR PARTIES ALL DID MUCH WORSE THAN 1973.

8. DESPITE WINNING 3 DEPUTY SEATS, THE PARTIDO AUTENTICO AND TERCERA POSICION MUST BE DISAPPOINTED BY THE RESULTS. TOGETHER, THEY WON ONLY HALF AS MANY VOTES FOR GOVERNOR AS TERCERA POSICION GOT IN 1973. THE PARTIDO AUTENTICO WILL NO DOUBT CONTINUE ITS ACTIVITIES ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL AND CONTINUE TO BE A THORN IN THE SIDE OF THE ORTHODOX PERONISTS. THE MISIONES RESULTS WILL PROBABLY BE USED BY SOME IN THE MONTONEROS TO BOLSTER THEIR CASE THAT THEY CAN ONLY TRIUMPH THROUGH VIOLENCE.
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